

**IN THE CLAIMS**

*Please find below a listing of all of the pending claims. The status of each claim is set forth in parentheses. This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.*

1. (Currently Amended) A method of routing voice communications, comprising:

[[a]] establishing a first path between a remote originating node and a gateway using a first channel of a circuit-switched network, wherein the gateway is communicatively coupled to the circuit-switched network and a packet-switched network; [[and]]

[[b]] establishing a second path between an answering node and the gateway using a second channel of the circuit-switched network if the answering node is remote relative to the gateway, wherein the first and second paths collectively form a bi-directional communication path;

converting first circuit-switched voice data received from the circuit-switched network on the first channel into packet-switched voice data;

converting the packet-switched voice data into second circuit-switched voice data for any packet designating the remote answering node as a destination node; and

routing the second circuit-switched voice data to the remote destination node across the circuit-switched network on the second channel.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

[[c]] establishing the second path between the answering node and the gateway using the packet-switched network, if the answering node is local relative to the packet-switched network.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
[[c]] communicating voice data between the first and second nodes through the gateway.
4. (Canceled).
5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the originating and answering nodes is circuit-switched subscriber equipment comprising a selected one of a telephone, modem, and facsimile apparatus.
6. (Currently Amended) A method of routing voice communications between first and second nodes of a communication system, comprising:  
[[a]] converting first circuit-switched voice data received from a remote first node on a first channel of a circuit-switched network to packet-switched voice data ~~transmitted on a packet-switched network at a gateway~~; [[and]]  
[[b]] routing the packet-switched voice data to the second node, only if the second node is local to [[the]] a gateway, on [[the]] a packet-switched network;  
converting the packet-switched voice data into second circuit-switched voice data if the second node is remote to the gateway; and  
routing the second circuit-switched voice data to the remote second node across the circuit-switched network.

7. (Canceled).
8. (Original) Apparatus for communicating between two nodes of a communication system, comprising:

a gateway, wherein the gateway converts first circuit-switched voice data received from a remote first node on a first channel of a circuit-switched network to packet-switched voice data, wherein the gateway converts the packet-switched voice data to second circuit-switched voice data for any packet designating a remote second node, wherein the gateway communicates the second circuit-switched voice data to the remote second node using a second channel of the circuit-switched network.
9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the packet-switched voice data is routed to a local second node using a packet-switched network for any packet designating the local second node.
10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein at least one of the first and second nodes is communicatively coupled to the gateway through both the circuit-switched network and the packet-switched network.
11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the first channel carries analog data on an analog subscriber line.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the first channel carries digital data on a digital subscriber line.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the digital subscriber line is time division multiplexed.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the first channel defines a connection between the gateway and subscriber equipment of the first node, wherein the subscriber equipment is a selected one of a modem, telephone, and facsimile apparatus.

15. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for communicating between first and second nodes of a circuit-switched network coupled to a packet-switched network, comprising:

gateway conversion means for bi-directional conversion of voice data between the circuit-switched network and the packet-switched network, wherein the gateway conversion means is communicatively coupled to the first node using a first channel of the circuit-switched network, wherein the gateway conversion means is communicatively coupled to the second node using a second channel of the circuit-switched network, wherein the gateway conversion means converts first circuit-switched voice data originating from one of the first and second nodes into packetized voice data; and

routing means for routing packetized data, wherein the routing means routes packetized voice data on the packet-switched network, designating one of the first and second nodes as a destination node to the gateway conversion means, if the destination node is determined to be local to the gateway conversion means,

wherein the gateway conversion means converts the received packetized voice data to second circuit-switched voice data if the destination node is determined to be remote from the gateway conversion means, wherein the gateway conversion means communicates the second circuit-switched voice data to one of the first and second nodes using a corresponding one of the first and second channels in accordance with the identity of the designated node.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein at least one of the first and second nodes is communicatively coupled to the gateway through both the circuit-switched network and the packet-switched network.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the first channel carries analog data on an analog subscriber line.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the first channel carries digital data on a digital subscriber line.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the digital subscriber line is time division multiplexed.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the first channel defines a connection between the gateway conversion means and subscriber equipment of the first node, wherein the subscriber equipment is a selected one of a modem, telephone, and facsimile apparatus.